

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 51102-79625

Title: 24TH MEU (SOC) OPERATIONS IN AND AROUND KISMAYO, SOMALIA

Operation/Exercise Name: RESTORE HOPE

Observed: 27 Apr 1993

Originator: BLT 1/2, S-3

POC: CAPT TOAL Commercial: (919)451-3288 DSN: 4843288

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Interpreters are an invaluable asset.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

We had interpreters on three raid/cordon and search operations. They proved to be an important asset that can assist a unit in a myriad of capacities from intelligence collection to assisting a doctor at a MEDCAP site by translating a patients problems/symptoms. These interpreters were an absolute necessity when dealing with the village elders.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

Interpreters are a required attachment in a LIC environment like Somalia. The ability to effectively communicate with the local populace is imperative and facilitates operations and intelligence gathering.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

An attached interpreter should always be escorted by an ITT or CI Marine, and additional security if required. A radio with the security detachment will allow the translator and ITT/CIT team to freely roam and collect information. Additionally, unit commanders need to request interpreters for every operation if possible.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None.

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